

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-11. (Canceled)

12. (New) A resource management server for managing resources for a plurality of electronic equipment classified into groups according to functions of the plurality of electronic equipment, the resource management server comprising:

at least one processor; and

a memory, wherein the at least one processor executes resource management functions including:

a storing function of storing first group information and reservation status information, the first group information defining a group to which a function of a first electronic equipment connected to a transmission apparatus belongs, the reservation status information including information with respect to an available bandwidth for connection to the transmission apparatus;

a receiving function of receiving second group information and resource reservation-requesting information from a second electronic equipment newly connected to the transmission apparatus, the second group information defining a group to which a function of the second electronic equipment belongs, the resource reservation-requesting information including information with respect to a bandwidth requested by the second electronic equipment;

a group-judging function of judging, based on the first group information and the second group information, whether or not the second electronic equipment belongs to the same group as the first electronic equipment when the receiving function receives the second group information; and

a path-judging function of judging, based on the reservation status information and the resource reservation-requesting information, whether or not a communication path between the first electronic equipment and the second electronic equipment is available when the group-judging function judges that the

second electronic equipment belongs to the same group as the first electronic equipment.

13. **(New)** A resource management server according to claim 12, wherein the reservation status information further includes information with respect to an available bandwidth for the communication path, and

wherein the path-judging function compares the available bandwidth for the communication path with the bandwidth indicated by the resource reservation-requesting information to judge whether or not the communication path is available.

14. **(New)** A resource management server according to claim 13, wherein the path-judging function judges that the communication path is available when the available bandwidth for the communication path is not less than the bandwidth indicated by the resource reservation-requesting information.

15. **(New)** A resource management server according to claim 14, wherein the at least one processor further executes:

a reservation function of reserving a resource requested by the second electronic equipment when the path-judging function judges that the communication path is available.

16. **(New)** A resource management server according to claim 13, wherein the path-judging function judges that the communication path is not available when the available bandwidth for the communication path is less than the bandwidth indicated by the resource reservation-requesting information.

17. **(New)** A resource management server according to claim 13, further comprising:

a display unit operable to display a judgment result generated by the path-judging function.

18. **(New)** A resource management server according to claim 12, wherein the path-judging function specifies alternative and available communication paths existing between the second electronic equipment and another electronic equipment differing from the first and second electronic equipment when the path-judging function judges that the communication path is not available.

19. **(New)** A resource management server according to claim 12, wherein the path-judging function specifies alternative and available communication paths having less quality of service among a plurality of alternative and available communication paths existing between the second electronic equipment and another plurality of electronic equipment differing from the first and second electronic equipment when the path-judging function judges that the communication path is not available.

20. **(New)** A resource management server according to claim 12, wherein the transmission apparatus includes a plurality of transmission devices.

21. **(New)** A resource management server according to claim 12, wherein the at least one processor further executes:

a specifying function operable to specify a location to be connected for the second electronic equipment.

22. **(New)** A resource management server according to claim 12, wherein the at least one processor further executes:

a re-reservation function of cancelling a present reservation status to make a new

resource reservation request when the path-judging function judges that the communication path is not available.

23. **(New)** A resource management method for managing resources for a plurality of electronic equipment classified into groups according to functions of the plurality of electronic equipment, the resource management server method comprising:

storing first group information and reservation status information, the first group information defining a group to which a function of a first electronic equipment connected to a transmission apparatus belongs, the reservation status information including information with respect to an available bandwidth for connection to the transmission apparatus;

receiving second group information and resource reservation-requesting information from a second electronic equipment newly connected to the transmission apparatus, the second group information defining a group to which a function of the second electronic equipment belongs, the resource reservation-requesting information including information with respect to a bandwidth requested by the second electronic equipment;

judging, based on the first group information and the second group information, whether or not the second electronic equipment belongs to the same group as the first electronic equipment when the receiving function receives the second group information; and

judging, based on the reservation status information and the resource reservation-requesting information, whether or not a communication path between the first electronic equipment and the second electronic equipment is available when the group-judging function judges that the second electronic equipment belongs to the same group as the first electronic equipment.

24. **(New)** A program stored on a computer-readable medium for causing a server to perform a method of resource management for a plurality of electronic equipment

classified into groups according to functions of the plurality of electronic equipment, the method comprising:

storing first group information and reservation status information, the first group information defining a group to which a function of a first electronic equipment connected to a transmission apparatus belongs, the reservation status information including information with respect to an available bandwidth for connection to the transmission apparatus;

receiving second group information and resource reservation-requesting information from a second electronic equipment newly connected to the transmission apparatus, the second group information defining a group to which a function of the second electronic equipment belongs, the resource reservation-requesting information including information with respect to a bandwidth requested by the second electronic equipment;

judging, based on the first group information and the second group information, whether or not the second electronic equipment belongs to the same group as the first electronic equipment when the receiving function receives the second group information; and

judging, based on the reservation status information and the resource reservation-requesting information, whether or not a communication path between the first electronic equipment and the second electronic equipment is available when the group-judging function judges that the second electronic equipment belongs to the same group as the first electronic equipment.